ix) State Level Bankers Committee to hold meetings for resolution of Credit issues of MSMEs;

x) Guarantee cover under Credit Guarantee Scheme doubled to Rs. 1 crore with cover of 50%;

xi) DEPB rates restored to pre November, 2008 levels and extended till 31.12.2009;

xii) Duty Drawback on knitted fabrics enhanced retrospectively from 1.9.2008.

Weavers of UP and Bihar in Miserable Condition

1319. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that weavers who mostly belong to minority community in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are in miserable condition and are on the verge of committing suicide;

(b) whether the new Government will constitute a commission to conduct survey and enquire into their plight;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details and number of weavers who are living below poverty line in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, district-wise and what steps Government has taken to redress their grievances till date, during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) The Government of India is implementing following handloom schemes for the development of the handloom sector and welfare of handloom weavers including weavers belonging to minority communities of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar:

(i) Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme

(ii) Marketing and Export Promotion Scheme

(iii) Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme

(iv) Mill Gate Price Scheme

(v) Diversified Handloom Development Scheme

However, no reports of committing suicide by the weavers of the State of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have been received. The number of weavers living below poverty line in Uttar Pradesh are 69,656 while the data on weavers below poverty line in Bihar is not available. District-wise details in this regard are maintained by the respective State Government.

Textile Sector hit by Appreciation of Rupee

1320. SHRIMATI HEMA MALNI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to provide necessary support to textile sector which have been adversely hit by the appreciation of rupee and thus causing losses; and

(b) if so, by when it is expected to provide support?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) There has been no appreciation in Indian rupee against US dollar during the period 2008-09 over 2007-08. In order to boost exports, arrest the impact of economic slow down and to improve liquidity, Government had announced two stimulus packages on 7th December, 2008 and 2nd January, 2009 to the domestic industry including textiles industry which *inter-alia*, provide for the following:-

i) Additional allocation of Rs.1400 crore to clear the backlog of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) (farther allocation of Rs.3140 crore in the Budget 2009-10 has been announced);

ii) All items of handicrafts included under 'Vishesh Krishi & Gram Udyog Yojana (VK&GUY)';

iii) Across-the-board cut of 4% in the ad-valorem Cenvat rate till 31.3.2009;

iv) Interest subvention of 2% upto 31.3.2009 subject to a minimum of 7% per annum on pre and post-shipment export credit (since extended to 31.3.2010 in the Union Budget 2009-10);

v) Provision of additional funds for full refund of Terminal Excise Duty/Central Sales Tax.

vi) Enhanced back-up guarantee to ECGC to cover for exports to difficult markets/products;

vii) Refund of Service Tax on foreign agent commissions of upto 10% of FOB value of exports as well as refund of service tax on output service while availing benefits under Duty Drawback Scheme;

viii) Credit targets of Public Sector Banks revised upward to reflect the needs of the economy;

ix) State Level Bankers Committee to hold meetings for resolution of Credit issues of MSMEs;

x) Guarantee cover under Credit Guarantee Scheme doubled to Rs. 1 crore with cover of 50%;

xi) DEPB rates restored to pre November, 2008 levels and extended till 31.12.2009;

xii) Duty Drawback on knitted fabrics enhanced retrospectively from 1.9.2008.

Steps to revive Sick Textile Units

1321. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that many Government and private textile units have become sick;

(b) the total number of sick units, State-wise; and

(c) the steps initiated by Government to revive the industry?